

The Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A mobile device, comprising:

a mobile device housing having a top surface;

a touch screen for displaying information to the user of the mobile device and for receiving input commands from the user, wherein the touch screen is mounted in the top surface of the housing; and

a detachable protective cover comprising a protective surface and a positioning mechanism, wherein the protective cover is detachably mounted to the mobile device housing such that the positioning mechanism positions the protective surface between a first position in which the protective surface covers the touch screen in the top surface and a second position in which the protective surface does not cover the touch screen in the top surface;

wherein at least a portion of the protective surface is transparent to enable viewing of information displayed on the touch screen while the protective cover is in the first position .

2. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, wherein the protective surface includes a plurality of apertures, and wherein a plurality of controls are displayed on the touch screen below the apertures.

3. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, wherein the positioning mechanism includes a pair of pins on the protective cover that mount to a pair of rails on the mobile device housing.

4. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 3, wherein the pins rotate about the rails in order to position the protective surface between the first position and the second position.
5. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 4, wherein the pins slide along the rails in order to translate the protective surface between the second position and a third position in which the protective cover is aligned with a bottom surface of the mobile device housing.
6. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, wherein the mobile device is a cellular telephone, a two-way pager, or a personal digital assistant.
7. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, wherein the positioning mechanism comprises a hinge.
8. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 7, wherein the hinge includes two parts, a first part integral to the protective cover, and a second part integral to the mobile device housing.
9. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, further comprising a keyboard, wherein the protective cover extends over the keyboard when biased in the first position.
10. (Currently Amended) A mobile device, comprising:
 - a mobile device housing having a top surface;
 - a touch surface for receiving input commands from a user of the mobile device, wherein the touch surface is mounted in the top surface of the housing; and

a detachable protective cover comprising a transparent protective surface and a positioning mechanism, wherein the protective cover is detachably mounted to the mobile device housing such that the positioning mechanism positions the transparent protective surface between a first position in which the protective surface covers the touch surface and a second position in which the protective surface does not cover the touch surface;

wherein the protective cover includes a plurality of apertures for providing input commands to the touch surface while the protective cover is biased in the first position.

11. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 10, wherein the touch surface is a touch screen.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 10, wherein the touch surface is a touch keyboard.

14. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 10, wherein the touch surface comprises a touch control area and a display area, wherein the plurality of apertures are aligned in the protective cover above the touch control area when the protective cover is in the first position.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 11, wherein the touch surface is a touch screen, and wherein a plurality of controls are displayed on the touch screen below the plurality of apertures in the protective cover when the protective cover is in the first position.

18. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 11, wherein the positioning mechanism includes a pair of pins on the protective cover that mount to a pair of rails on the mobile device housing.

19. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 18, wherein the pins rotate about the rails in order to position the protective surface between the first position and the second position.

20. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 19, wherein the pins slide along the rails in order to translate the protective surface between the second position and a third position in which the protective cover is aligned with a bottom surface of the mobile device housing.

21. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 10, wherein the mobile device is a cellular telephone, a two-way pager, or a personal digital assistant.

22. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 10, wherein the positioning mechanism comprises a hinge.

23. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 22, wherein the hinge includes two parts, a first part integral to the protective cover, and a second part integral to the mobile device housing.

24. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 10, further comprising a keyboard, wherein the protective cover extends over the keyboard when biased in the first position.

25. (Currently Amended) A detachable protective cover for protecting a user interface of a mobile device, comprising:

a partially-transparent protective surface; and

a positioning mechanism;

wherein the protective cover is detachably mounted to the mobile device using the positioning mechanism such that the positioning mechanism positions the partially-transparent protective cover between a first position in which the partially-transparent protective surface covers the user interface of the mobile device and a second position in which the partially-transparent protective surface does not cover the user interface.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The protective cover of claim 25, wherein the protective surface includes a plurality of apertures.

28. (Previously Presented) The protective cover of claim 27, wherein the user interface of the mobile device includes a touch screen for displaying a plurality of user input controls, and wherein the plurality of apertures are positioned above the plurality of user input controls when the protective cover is biased in the first position.

29. (Presently Presented) The protective cover of claim 25, wherein the user interface of the mobile device includes a display screen, and wherein the partially-transparent portion of the protective cover is positioned above the display screen when the protective cover is biased in the first position.

30. (Previously Presented) The protective cover of claim 25, wherein the positioning mechanism is a hinge that couples the protective cover to the mobile device.

31. (Previously Presented) The protective cover of claim 25, wherein the hinge includes a pair of pins integral to the protective cover and a pair of rails integral to the mobile device.

32. (New) The mobile device of claim 2, further comprising:

a plurality of detachable and interchangeable protective covers which may be detachably mounted to the mobile device, each of the detachable and interchangeable protective covers including a plurality of apertures; and

a plurality of cover models stored within the mobile device, each cover model corresponding to one of the plurality of detachable and interchangeable protective covers and describing the position of the apertures within the protective cover.

33. (New) The mobile device of claim 10, further comprising:

a plurality of detachable and interchangeable protective covers which may be detachably mounted to the mobile device, each of the detachable and interchangeable protective covers including a plurality of apertures; and

a plurality of cover models stored within the mobile device, each cover model corresponding to one of the plurality of detachable and interchangeable protective covers and describing the position of the apertures within the protective cover.